

But I was just like you last night—I was a fascinated observer. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:26 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Republican Presidential candidate Gov. George W. Bush.

**Proclamation 7372—National
American Indian Heritage Month,
2000**

November 8, 2000

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians are a special part of the tapestry of our Nation's history. As keepers of a rich and ancient cultural heritage, Native Americans share with all of us the beauty of their art, the power of their songs, and the grace of their people. As individuals, they have distinguished themselves in virtually every field, from the arts to the sciences, from the world of sports to the world of commerce.

This month, we celebrate the culture and contributions of the first Americans. We also remember with sorrow the suffering they endured because of past Federal actions and policies that had long-term and often devastating consequences for Native Americans and their culture. But, as the new millennium dawns, there is reason for optimism. During my 1999 New Markets tour of the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota and my visit to the Navajo Nation in New Mexico in April of this year, I saw firsthand a strength of spirit and hope sweeping through Indian Country. The Vice President and I have worked with tribes to foster this hope—through economic development initiatives and improved education and health care.

We still have much to accomplish, however. While my Administration has worked hard to bridge the digital divide and bring the Information Superhighway to Indian Country, some areas still do not have telephone and power lines. We continue striving to provide American Indians with the tools they need to strengthen family and commu-

nity life by fighting poverty, crime, alcohol and drug abuse, and domestic violence, and we are working with tribes to improve academic achievement and strengthen tribal colleges.

We are also seeking to ensure that tribal leaders have a voice equal to that of Federal and State officials in addressing issues of concern to all our citizens. I reaffirmed that commitment to tribal sovereignty and self-determination by issuing this month a revised Executive Order on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments. This order builds on prior actions and strengthens our government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes by ensuring that all Executive departments and agencies consult with Indian tribes and respect tribal sovereignty as the agencies consider policy initiatives that affect Indian communities.

This year, my Administration proposed the largest budget increase ever for a comprehensive Native American initiative for health care, education, infrastructure, and economic development. Just last month, as part of the Department of the Interior appropriations legislation, I signed into law one segment of this budget initiative that includes significant investments for school construction in Indian Country and the largest funding increase ever for the Indian Health Service. These are the kinds of investments that will empower tribal communities to address an array of needs and, ultimately, to achieve a better standard of living.

Back in 1994, when I first met with the tribal leaders of more than 500 Indian nations at the White House, I saw the strength and determination that have enabled Native Americans to overcome extraordinary barriers and protect their hard-won civil and political rights. Since then, by working together, we have established a new standard for Federal Indian policy—one that promotes an effective government-to-government relationship between the Federal Government and the tribes, and that seeks to ensure greater prosperity, self-reliance, and hope for all Native Americans. While we cannot erase the tragedies of the past, we can create a future where all of our country's people share in America's great promise.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2000 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I urge all Americans, as well as their elected representatives at the Federal, State, local, and tribal levels, to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-fifth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 13, 2000]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 15.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 4

In the afternoon, the President traveled from Chappaqua, NY, to New York City. In the evening, he traveled to Little Rock, AR.

November 5

In the afternoon, the President traveled to Pine Bluff, AR, and in the evening, he returned to Washington, DC.

November 6

In the evening, the President traveled to Chappaqua, NY.

November 7

In the morning, the President and Hillary Clinton went to their polling place at Doug-

las Grafflin Elementary School. Later, they traveled to New York City.

November 8

In the morning, the President returned to Washington, DC.

November 9

In the afternoon, the President met with Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority in the Oval Office.

The President announced his intention to appoint Ronald Burkle, James Kinsey, Dorothy McAuliffe, and Jay Stein to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The President announced his intention to appoint Lee Fisher as a member of the Board of Governors of the United Service Organizations, Inc.

The President announced his intention to appoint Kristin E. Flaten to serve as a member of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint James C. Harris and James W. Hubbard as members of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

The President announced his intention to appoint Colonel Robin Umberg as a member of the Board of Visitors at the U.S. Military Academy.

The President named Sheldon Datz, Sidney Drell, and Herbert York as winners of the Enrico Fermi Award, given for a lifetime of achievement in the field of nuclear energy.

The President declared a major disaster in Hawaii and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding beginning on October 28 and continuing through November 2.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.